IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

) : Examiner: Laura K. Roth
)
: Group Art Unit: 2852) : Confirmation No. 6720
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) :) :) January 11, 2010

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

A Communication issued on December 17, 2009, in European Patent Application No. 05737127.0, a counterpart to the subject application. A copy of this Communication is enclosed. The Communication cites the following documents:

- (1) Japanese Publication No. 10-069186
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,526,250
- (3) Japanese Publication No. 04-287078

(4) U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/057741

(5) U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/129518

(6) U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/102118

(7) U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/180063

Documents (1), (3), and (4) have already been made of record in the present application.

Documents (2) and (5) - (7) are cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

No fee is believed due in connection with this paper. However, if any fee is due, it

should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the

Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such

information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office

by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our

address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Donald H. Heckenberg, Jr./

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